velopment during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the locations of these oil fields;

(c) whether any of them is located in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the progress made in the development of these oil fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) 13 oil fields were made by ONGC, of which 4 were during 1995, 8 during 1996-97 and 1 during 1997-98. Of these 6 are in Gujarat, 3 in Tamil Nadu, 1 in Andhra Pradesh, 1 in Assam and 2 in the Western Offshore.

No discovered small or medium oil fields were offered for development during these three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol Pump and LPG Dealerships to STs

1190. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of Petrol Pump and LPG dealerships allotted to Scheduled Tribes in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether such agencies are being run by the candidates themselves or on Power of Attorney basis; and

(c) the details of any survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During the last five years *i.e.* 1993-94 to 1997-98, 178 retails outlets and 92 LPG distributorships have been allotted to Scheduled Tribes category. As per existing policy, 25% dealerships/distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category. The locations earmarked for ST category are allotted to 'ST' category only.

(b) and (c) Recently, not such incident has been reported where the dealership/ distributorship allotted to Scheduled Tribe category is being run on Power of Attorney basis. However, BPCL has reported that an LPG distributorship at Mumbai allotted to ST category was found to be run by another person. The distributorship has already been terminated as per the dealership agreement.

To prevent benami operation of dealerships allotted to SC/ST persons on account of financial problems, etc., by others, since 1.4.1992, oil companies are developing all infrastructure and facilities of dealerships allotted to SC/ST. at company's own cost and also provide working capital loan at low interest to these allottees, for running the dealership.

Supply of LPG in Darjeeling Hills

1191. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are forced to use fire-wood as fuel in Darjeeling hills;

(b) whether this, in turn is leading to de-forestation and land-slides; and

(c) if so, whether Government will consider supplying LPG at subsidised rates and opening new LPG outlets by relaxing the present guidelines to save Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There are five LPG distributorships in operation in Hill markets of Darjeeling district, which include two each at Darjeeling and Kalimpong and one at Kurseong. As per existing policy, LPG connections in the hilly areas at the altitude of above 2000 ft. are released across the counter. As on 1.12.98, there is reportedly no waiting list with any of the five distributorships. In

addition to the above, one new LPG distributorships has been included in the PLG Marketing Plan 1996-98 at Cart Road, Darjeeling.

Domestic LPG is already being supplied at subsidised rate. However, Government had decided to dismantle Administered Price Mechanism and initiated a phased programme for same. According, subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the subsidy level at 15% of import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onward.

Cancellation of LPG Gas Agencies

1192. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many petrol outlets and LPG Gas agencies were cancelled on the directions of Supreme Court, Statewise;

(b) the names of persons whose agencies were cancelled, State-wise;

(c) how many agencies were put to auction as per the Supreme Court's directive; and

(d) the names and addresses of persons who have taken these agencies in public auction and the amount realised from each of the agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 25.9.96 in writ petition No. 26(C)/95 filed by Common Cause Vs Union of India had cancelled 15 retail outlet dealerships, the details of which are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Out of the above 15 retail outlet dealerships cancelled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, only 5 retail outlets, which were commissioned, were required to be auctioned. Out of the 5 retail outlets required to be auctioned, one retail outlet could not be auctioned on account of quashing of the auction notice by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad. The details of the remaining four retail outlets which were auctioned are given below:

Name of the Original Dealer/ Location to be auctioned	Name and address of the Highest bidder	Amount (Rs.)
(1) Smt. Vijaya Nair Delhi	Shri Mahabir Prasad Saini 4/12, Ashok Mohalla, Nangloi, Delhi-41.	3.11 crores
(2) Shri Arun Kumar Gupta Chandigarh	Shri Amarjeet Singh Randhawa H.No. 82, Sector 27-A, Chandigarh	1.75 crores
(3) Shri Benjamin K. Hollohon, Dimapur (Nagaland)	Shri Benjamin C/o Shri K. Hollohon, Chumukhedima, Dimapur.	15.75 Lacs
(4) Shri Dharmesh Kumar Tundla, (U.P.)	Shri Ram Kumar Gupta (Shri Amit Kumar Jain) in partnership, Baldev Nagar, Tundla, Ferozabad (U.P.)	45.00 Lacs